

immigration history could profit greatly from guides to 'Canadian' material in those European countries from which so-called 'ethnic' Canadians have come. For Great Britain is it still wise to concentrate so heavily on the PRO? A perusal of the collections indexed by the National Registry of Archives (London) shows at once how much fascinating materials outside the PRO largely remains unused by Canadian scholars. Such a guide might also at last induce historians of Canada to make far greater use of repositories in the USA, a rich and still largely neglected resource despite the proximity of so many of the best archives. If such a guide is contemplated or if an expanded collecting policy is decided upon interested historians should be prepared, if consulted, to lend their advice and support.

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Inventory of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Halifax: 1976.

The province of Nova Scotia, with a records commissioner first appointed in 1857, boasts the longest continuous archival organization in Canada. With this inventory it becomes the first provincial archives to publish a modern one-volume guide to its holdings. It is in every way an excellent publication; and students of Nova Scotia history are very much in the debt of the provincial archivist and his colleagues, named in the preface, for their enormous labour.

The P.A.N.S. collection is broadly divided into Record Groups and Manuscript Groups, each introduced briefly and followed by a detailed volume-by-volume description of the contents. For instance, MG1 (Papers of Families and Individuals) lists alphabetically all the families for whom papers exist, describes the contents of each collection, notes its length and supplies the reference. This occupies pp. 403-568, or almost one-quarter of the entire guide. Doubtless this is justified by the numerous genealogical inquiries made at the archives by the general public. In addition, very usefully, this inventory identifies which volumes of documents have been published, as is the case, for instance, of certain eighteenth century census returns and executive council minutes. Equally valuable are the references to finding aids, not published here, but available at the P.A.N.S. itself. It should be noted that the material in this inventory includes documents either transcribed or microfilmed elsewhere, especially from the Public Archives in London, but also occasionally in USA archives.

It is perhaps unfortunate that a general index was not prepared. Let me illustrate this by making reference to the 'poor.' Only after a time was I able to discover that RG 35 (Elective Municipal Government) contains the relevant series, entitled 'Charities and the Poor including County Hospitals.' Once there it was simple to discover that such records survive only for the counties of Halifax, Hants (East), Kings and Shelburne (pp. 252-315).

We can now hope that the P.A.N.S. will prepare a general guide to the manuscripts relating to Nova Scotia history in Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the USA. In view of the current renaissance in Nova Scotia historiography, such a project would be as valuable as this excellent inventory now available.

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